

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. In a computing device a method comprising:
  - 2 receiving a first indication identifying a first one or more digital media
  - 3 resources stored at said computing device to be shared with one or more users
  - 4 of one or more corresponding remote computing devices;
  - 5 receiving a second indication identifying said one or more users from
  - 6 among a community of users to receive said first one or more digital media
  - 7 resources;
  - 8 establishing a first data connection between said computing device and a
  - 9 server;
  - 10 transparently receiving from said server, a second one or more digital
  - 11 media resources previously identified by any of said community of users as one
  - 12 or more digital media resources to be shared with a user associated with said
  - 13 computing device; and
  - 14 displaying said second one or more digital media resources in association
  - 15 with at least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more digital media resources
- 2 comprise a corresponding one or more digital images.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein at least a subset of said one or more  
2 digital images are interchangeably displayed as digital wallpaper on said  
3 computing device.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more digital images are  
2 sequentially displayed on said computing device for a predetermined amount of  
3 time.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said user associated with said computing  
2 device is identified based at least in part upon a user name entered by said user  
3 and transmitted to said server.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 transmitting said first one or more digital media resources to said server to  
3 be temporarily stored for subsequent delivery to said remote computing devices  
4 associated with said one or more users.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said first one or more digital media  
2 resources are transmitted to said server via said first data connection.

1 8. In a server, a method of operation comprising:  
2 receiving information from a first user identifying a second user as a  
3 resource sharing partner;

4 receiving information from the second user identifying the first user as a  
5 resource sharing partner;  
6 receiving one or more digital media resources uploaded by at least one of  
7 said first and second users; and  
8 relaying the one or more digital media resources to the first user if the one  
9 or more digital media resources were uploaded by the second user, and relaying  
10 the one or more digital media resources to the second user if the one or more  
11 digital media resources were uploaded by the first user, said one or more digital  
12 media resources to be displayed in association with at least one of a screen  
13 saver and a wallpaper on a corresponding computing device.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more digital images.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more frames of digital video sequence.

1 11. The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
2 temporarily storing said one or more digital media resources in association  
3 with said first or second user;  
4 receiving a data connection request from at least one of said first and  
5 second users;

6 authenticating the identity of said first or second user based on said data  
7 connection request; and  
8 downloading the one or more digital media resources associated with the  
9 authenticated user to a computing device corresponding to the authenticated  
10 user.

1 12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2 generating at least one meta-data file to describe at least a subset of said  
3 one or more digital media resources; and  
4 storing said at least one meta-data file in association with said one or  
5 more digital media resources described.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 are stored on said server in a compressed form.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

2 receiving a request from one of said first or second users requesting that a  
3 copy of a digital media resource be shared with a third user, said digital media  
4 resource having been previously uploaded to said server by said requesting one  
5 of said first or second users, shared with the other of said first or second users,  
6 and thereafter removed from both said server and a computing device associated  
7 with said requesting one of said first or second users;

8 identifying at least one of each user to have received a previous copy of  
9 said digital media resource; and  
10 requesting said previous copy of said digital media resource from said  
11 identified user for forwarding to said third user.

1 15. In a computer system, a method of operation comprising:  
2 registering with an operating system as a screen saver;  
3 receiving from a server, one or more images uploaded to the server from  
4 one or more image sharing partners;  
5 receiving transfer of execution control from the operating system as a  
6 result of the computer system entering a screen saving mode of operation; and  
7 rendering the one or more images received from the server in the form of  
8 a screen saver.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more images comprise  
2 frames of a digital video sequence.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more images are received  
2 through at least one HTTP based connection.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more images are received  
2 upon successful authentication by a user associated with the computer system to  
3 the server.

1 19. In a computer system, a method of operation comprising:  
2 receiving from a server, one or more digital media resources uploaded to  
3 the server from one or more resource sharing partners selected from a previously  
4 identified community of resource sharing partners;  
5 visually displaying at least one of the one or more digital media resources;  
6 establishing a communication session with at least one of the one or more  
7 resource sharing partners; and  
8 concurrently facilitating a communication session with at least one of the  
9 one or more resource sharing partners while said at least one of the one or more  
10 digital media resources is displayed.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more digital images.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more frames of digital video sequence.

1 22 The method of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the one or more  
2 digital media resources are interchangeably displayed as a digital wallpaper.

1 23 The method of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the one or more  
2 digital media resources are sequentially displayed as a screen saver.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein said resource sharing partners are selected from a community of resource sharing partners associated with a third party text-based messaging service.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein said communication session comprises a selected one of a text, voice and video based chat session.

26. A computing device comprising:  
a machine accessible medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, which when executed, cause the computing device to  
receive a first indication identifying a first one or more digital media resources stored at said computing device to be shared with one or more users of one or more corresponding remote computing devices,  
receive a second indication identifying said one or more users from among a community of users to receive said first one or more digital media resources,  
establish a first data connection between said computing device and a server,  
transparently receive from said server, a second one or more digital media resources previously identified by any of said community of users as one or more digital media resources to be shared with a user associated with said computing device, and

16 display said second one or more digital media resources in  
17 association with at least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper; and  
18 a processor to execute said instructions.

1 27. The computing device of claim 26, wherein said one or more digital media  
2 resources comprise a corresponding one or more digital images.

1 28. The computing device of claim 27, wherein at least a subset of said one or  
2 more digital images are interchangeably displayed as digital wallpaper on said  
3 computing device.

1 29. The computing device of claim 27, wherein said one or more digital  
2 images are sequentially displayed on said computing device for a predetermined  
3 amount of time.

1 30. The computing device of claim 26, wherein said user associated with said  
2 computing device is identified based at least in part upon a user name entered by  
3 said user and transmitted to said server.

1 31. The computing device of claim 26, wherein said machine accessible  
2 medium further comprises instructions to



3 transmit said first one or more digital media resources to said server to be  
4 temporarily stored for subsequent delivery to said remote computing devices  
5 associated with said one or more users.

1 32. The computing device of claim 31, wherein said first one or more digital  
2 media resources are transmitted to said server via said first data connection.

1 33. A server comprising:  
2 a machine accessible medium having stored thereon a plurality of  
3 instructions, which when executed, cause the computing device to  
4 receive information from a first user identifying a second user as a  
5 resource sharing partner,  
6 receive information from the second user identifying the first user  
7 as a resource sharing partner,  
8 receive one or more digital media resources uploaded by at least  
9 one of said first and second users, and  
10 relay the one or more digital media resources to the first user if the  
11 one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the second user, and  
12 relaying the one or more digital media resources to the second user if the  
13 one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the first user, said  
14 one or more digital media resources to be displayed in association with at  
15 least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper on a corresponding computing  
16 device; and

17 a processor to execute said instructions.

1 34. The server of claim 33, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more digital images.

1 35. The server of claim 33, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 comprise one or more frames of digital video sequence.

1 36. The server of claim 33, wherein said machine accessible medium further  
2 comprising instructions to

3 temporarily store said one or more digital media resources in association  
4 with said first or second user;

5 receive a data connection request from at least one of said first and  
6 second users;

7 authenticate the identity of said first or second user based on said data  
8 connection request; and

9 download the one or more digital media resources associated with the  
10 authenticated user to a computing device corresponding to the authenticated  
11 user.

1 37. The server of claim 33, further comprising:

2 generating at least one meta-data file to describe at least a subset of said  
3 one or more digital media resources; and

4 storing said at least one meta-data file in association with said one or  
5 more digital media resources described.

1 38. The server of claim 37, wherein said one or more digital media resources  
2 are stored on said server in a compressed form.

1 39. The server of claim 37, wherein said machine accessible medium further  
2 comprises instructions to:

3 receive a request from one of said first or second users requesting that a  
4 copy of a digital media resource be shared with a third user, said digital media  
5 resource having been previously uploaded to said server by said requesting one  
6 of said first or second users, shared with the other of said first or second users,  
7 and thereafter removed from both said server and a computing device associated  
8 with said requesting one of said first or second users;

9 identify at least one of each user to have received a previous copy of said  
10 digital media resource; and

11 request said previous copy of said digital media resource from said  
12 identified user for forwarding to said third user.

1 40. A computer system comprising:

2 a machine accessible medium having stored thereon a plurality of  
3 instructions, which when executed, cause the computing device to  
4 register with an operating system as a screen saver,

5 receive from a server, one or more images uploaded to the server  
6 from one or more image sharing partners,  
7 receive transfer of execution control from the operating system as a  
8 result of the computer system entering a screen saving mode of operation,  
9 and  
10 render the one or more images received from the server in the form  
11 of a screen saver; and  
12 a processor to execute said instructions.

1 41. The computer system of claim 40, wherein said one or more images  
2 comprise frames of a digital video sequence.

1 42. The computer system of claim 40, wherein said one or more images are  
2 received through at least one HTTP based connection.

1 43. The computer system of claim 40, wherein said one or more images are  
2 received upon successful authentication by a user associated with the computer  
3 system to the server.

1 44. A computer system comprising:  
2 a machine accessible medium having stored thereon a plurality of  
3 instructions, which when executed, cause the computing device to

4 receive from a server, one or more digital media resources  
5 uploaded to the server from one or more resource sharing partners  
6 selected from a previously identified community of resource sharing  
7 partners,  
8 visually display at least one of the one or more digital media  
9 resources,  
10 establish a communication session with at least one of the one or  
11 more resource sharing partners, and  
12 concurrently facilitate a communication session with at least one of  
13 the one or more resource sharing partners while said at least one of the one  
14 or more digital media resources is displayed; and  
15 a processor to execute said instructions.

1 45. The computer system of claim 44, wherein said one or more digital media  
2 resources comprise one or more digital images.

1 46. The computer system of claim 44, wherein said one or more digital media  
2 resources comprise one or more frames of digital video sequence.

1 47 The computer system of claim 44, wherein said at least one of the one or  
2 more digital media resources are interchangeably displayed as a digital  
3 wallpaper.

1 48 The computer system of claim 44, wherein said at least one of the one or  
2 more digital media resources are sequentially displayed as a screen saver.

1 49. The computer system of claim 44, wherein said resource sharing partners  
2 are selected from a community of resource sharing partners associated with a  
3 third party text-based messaging service.

1 50. The computer system of claim 44, wherein said communication session  
2 comprises a selected one of a text, voice and video based chat session.

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